



Lovely Strange Dark

MINATO MACHI NEKO MACHI
"PORT TOWN CAT TOWN"
BY NANAMAKI KANAKO
CHAPTER 8

Translation: Horenless
Editing: Kot
QC: Iona



KINATO MACHI
NEKO MACHI 8

THE POSTBOX UNDER THE SKY



At the very
top of the
highest hill in
that town

This is a story
from not too
long ago about a
small port town
in the south

there stood a
single postbox.









WAIT,
EUGENE!



TAKE CARE
OF HIM.



HE WAS
AN INJURED
PIKA, BUT I
DON'T HAVE
ANYTHING TO
TREAT HIM
WITH HERE.

LOOKS
LIKE HE GOT
ATTACKED
BY A HULK
OR SOME-
THING.

I PICKED
HIM UP AT
THE BOTTOM
OF THE
CLIFF.



HOW HAVE
YOU BEEN
DOING?

IT'S BEEN
SO LONG
SINCE I'VE
SEEN YOUR
FACE.



IT'S NEAR
IMPOSSIBLE
THAT IF I
WENT DOWN
TO THE
TOWN.

I NEED
TO BE
HERE TO
REPORT
THE
WEATHER
THREE
TIMES A
DAY.



AREN'T YOU
LONELY?

I'M THE
ONLY PERSON
WHO COMES
ALL THE WAY
UP HERE TO
VISIT NOW.

WHY DON'T
YOU COME
DOWN EVERY
ONCE IN A
WHILE?



DON'T
WORRY
ABOUT ME.
THIS IS MY
JOB.

I THINK
YOU'VE EARNED
THE RIGHT TO
APPLY FOR A
REPLACEMENT.







IN THIS
LITTLE PORT
TOWN.

YOU CATS
SOMETIMES TAKE ON
THE FORM OF BOYS
AND LIVE WITH
GIRLS WHO CAN SEE
YOU IN THIS FORM.
YOU CALL THEM
"WITCHES".



YOU
GOT THAT
RIGHT.



ONE OF MY
ANCESTORS
WAS A WITCH
WHO LIVED
WITH A CAT.

MY MOTHER
USED TO TELL
ME ABOUT IT
ALL THE TIME.

So, not a huge surprise.



CARRYING
A DEEP
LONELINESS IN
THEIR HEARTS
CAN BECOME
WITCHES.

AND I'LL BAT
MY HAT IF I'M
LONELY. I'VE
GOT MY WORK
AND PUNY OF
FRIENDS!

ONLY
GIRLS



WAIT!!

HHEY,
CATHER-
INE...

THAT SAID,
I'M NOT
A WITCH.

IF
YOU NEED
SOMETHING
DARNED
CATCHING
YOUR GO-TO
GUY.

THE
GUY WAS
CARRYING
SOME LANGUAGE
UP TO THE
HOTEL IN THE
AFTERNOON.

2017-2018
 2019-2020
 2021-2022
 2023-2024

Alfred, Lord Tennyson
 "The Charge of the Light
 Brigade"
 "The Charge of the Light
 Brigade"
 "The Charge of the Light
 Brigade"

1. **Identify the problem.**
 2. **Identify the cause.**
 3. **Identify the effect.**
 4. **Identify the solution.**

BUT I
HANDLE
THEM LIKE
AN ADULT,
SO I'M NOT
A WITON

OF COURSE I HAVE MY OWN WORRIES LIKE EVERYONE ELSE.

1. *Chlorophyll a*
 2. *Chlorophyll b*
 3. *Chlorophyll c*
 4. *Chlorophyll d*
 5. *Chlorophyll e*
 6. *Chlorophyll f*
 7. *Chlorophyll g*
 8. *Chlorophyll h*
 9. *Chlorophyll i*
 10. *Chlorophyll j*
 11. *Chlorophyll k*
 12. *Chlorophyll l*
 13. *Chlorophyll m*
 14. *Chlorophyll n*
 15. *Chlorophyll o*
 16. *Chlorophyll p*
 17. *Chlorophyll q*
 18. *Chlorophyll r*
 19. *Chlorophyll s*
 20. *Chlorophyll t*
 21. *Chlorophyll u*
 22. *Chlorophyll v*
 23. *Chlorophyll w*
 24. *Chlorophyll x*
 25. *Chlorophyll y*
 26. *Chlorophyll z*
 27. *Chlorophyll aa*
 28. *Chlorophyll ab*
 29. *Chlorophyll ac*
 30. *Chlorophyll ad*
 31. *Chlorophyll ae*
 32. *Chlorophyll af*
 33. *Chlorophyll ag*
 34. *Chlorophyll ah*
 35. *Chlorophyll ai*
 36. *Chlorophyll aj*
 37. *Chlorophyll ak*
 38. *Chlorophyll al*
 39. *Chlorophyll am*
 40. *Chlorophyll an*
 41. *Chlorophyll ao*
 42. *Chlorophyll ap*
 43. *Chlorophyll aq*
 44. *Chlorophyll ar*
 45. *Chlorophyll as*
 46. *Chlorophyll at*
 47. *Chlorophyll au*
 48. *Chlorophyll av*
 49. *Chlorophyll aw*
 50. *Chlorophyll ax*
 51. *Chlorophyll ay*
 52. *Chlorophyll az*
 53. *Chlorophyll aza*
 54. *Chlorophyll abz*
 55. *Chlorophyll acz*
 56. *Chlorophyll adz*
 57. *Chlorophyll aez*
 58. *Chlorophyll afz*
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 60. *Chlorophyll ahz*
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 64. *Chlorophyll alz*
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 66. *Chlorophyll anz*
 67. *Chlorophyll aoz*
 68. *Chlorophyll apz*
 69. *Chlorophyll aqz*
 70. *Chlorophyll arz*
 71. *Chlorophyll asz*
 72. *Chlorophyll atz*
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 74. *Chlorophyll avz*
 75. *Chlorophyll awz*
 76. *Chlorophyll axz*
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 79. *Chlorophyll azaa*
 80. *Chlorophyll abz*
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 87. *Chlorophyll aiz*
 88. *Chlorophyll ajz*
 89. *Chlorophyll akz*
 90. *Chlorophyll alz*
 91. *Chlorophyll amz*
 92. *Chlorophyll anz*
 93. *Chlorophyll aoz*
 94. *Chlorophyll apz*
 95. *Chlorophyll aqz*
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 145. *Chlorophyll aoz*
 146. *Chlorophyll apz*
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 148. *Chlorophyll arz*
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 171. *Chlorophyll aoz*
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 176. *Chlorophyll atz*
 177. *Chlorophyll auz*
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 183. *Chlorophyll azaa*
 184. *Chlorophyll abz*
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 186. *Chlorophyll adz*
 187. *Chlorophyll aez*
 188. *Chlorophyll afz*
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 193. *Chlorophyll akz*
 194. *Chlorophyll alz*
 195. *Chlorophyll amz*
 196. *Chlorophyll anz*
 197. *Chlorophyll aoz*
 198. *Chlorophyll apz*
 199. *Chlorophyll aqz*
 200. *Chlorophyll arz*
 201. *Chlorophyll asz*
 202. *Chlorophyll atz*
 203. *Chlorophyll auz*
 204.

at the time
the post was
received.

to the girl who was
supposed to be my
seventh witch

HOW ABOUT WE GET LUNCH TOGETHER. ONE-ONE-ONE!

Abstract

THE NEW YORK
PUBLIC LIBRARY
ASTOR LENOX
TILDEN FOUNDATION
100 N. 5TH ST.
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10017

They agreed to, decided to share some things in the mountains.

and by the time
realized it'd run
straight into a
nail. Next, the
nest is history.



WE
WEREN'T
QUITE THE
SAME AGE, BUT
WE ALWAYS
PLAYED
TOGETHER.

WE'D STAY
AWAY ON
BOATS IN THE
PORT AND GO
SWIMMING IN
THE OCEAN.

RUSTLE

EUGENE AND
I LIVED IN THE
SAME APARTMENT
BUILDING WHEN
WE WERE KIDS.

LET ME
SEE...

THERE'S
A COUNTRY ALL
THE WAY ON THE
SOUTH END OF THE
CONTINENT, ON THE
OTHER SIDE OF THE
OCEAN, WHERE THEY
HAVE LOTS OF
ELEPHANTS.

HEY,
YUKIO,

WHERE'S
THE FURTHEST
YOU'VE EVER
GONE IN YOUR
ENTIRE LIFE?

AND
YOU KNOW
HOW BOYS
ARE. EUGENE
LOVED HIM.

THERE WAS
A SAILOR WHO'D
ALWAYS STOP AT
THE PORT BACK
THEN WHO CALLED
HIMSELF AN
ADVENTURER.



HOW ABOUT THIS

I'LL WRITE YOU A LETTER ONCE I GET TO THE COUNTRY WITH THE ELEPHANTS.



AFTER YOU GROW UP.

LET ME GO WITH YOU!

I'M GOING BACK THERE THE NEXT TIME I SHIP OUT.



ELEPHANTS?

THAT'S AMAZING! I'VE ONLY EVER SEEN PICTURES OF THEM IN BOOKS!



I'LL PUT ONE ON THE LETTER I SEND YOU.



SOME OF THE STAMPS THERE HAVE A BEAUTIFUL PICTURE OF AN ELEPHANT ON THEM.

BUT THEY SMELL JUST LIKE THE LAND.

THEY'RE NOT EASY TO FIND.



IF I HAD THIS CHANCE, I DON'T KNOW WHEN I'LL BE ABLE TO GO NEXT.



I'LL BE FINE.

BESIDES, I FINALLY GOT THE MONEY TOGETHER.

IT'S TOO WINDY TO BE OUT ON THE SEAS.



How- ever,

ARE YOU REALLY SHIPPING OUT, YUKIO?

THAT'S
RIGHT!

ALRIGHT
EUGENE, I'M
SHIPPING
OUT.

YOU'LL
BE FINE,
YUKIO!

THE WIND'S
BLOWING
OFFSHORE.
IT'S PERFECT
WEATHER FOR
SAILING!

SEE!

EUGENE!

YUKIO!

Eugene only
wanted to see
that letter with
the elephant
stamp.

What washed
ashore was
pieces of his
boat, smashed
to bits by the
storm.

And that was
exactly what
happened
that night.

THIS
PORT TOWN
RARELY SEES
STORMS.

BUT
EVERY TEN OR
TWENTY YEARS
OR SO, A HUGE
STORM COMES THAT
WASHES ALMOST
EVERYTHING
AWAY.

AND WHEN I HEARD HE'D REQUESTED TO WORK UP AT THE OBSERVATORY, THE JOB THAT NO ONE ELSE WANTED, I KNEW

ESAGNE
BECAME A
WEATHER
FORECASTER

ESAGNE
NEVER CALLS
ANYMORE

HE STILL
REGRETTED
WHAT HE
SAID THAT
NIGHT.

THE WIND'S
BLOWING
OFFSHORE.
IT'S PERFECT
WEATHER FOR
SAILING.

HE
WOULDN'T EVEN
HANGING
OUT WITH US
LATELY

I'VE TOLD
HIM THAT, BUT
ALL I CAN DO IS
COMFORT HIM.

HE
DECIDED
HIMSELF TO
GO OUT THAT
NIGHT.

BUT
MAYBE THAT
DIDN'T CHANGE
ANYTHING. MAYBE
THIS IS JUST HOW
IT HAS TO BE...

SOMETIMES
I THINK...
ESAGNE
PROBABLY
KNOWS THAT
HIMSELF.

THIS IS
THE ONLY SPOT
IN THE CITY
WHERE YOU CAN
SEE PAST THE
PENINSULA AND
OUT INTO THE
OCEAN.

YOU SEE
UP HERE.





THERE
HASN'T
BEEN ANY
WARNING
FROM THE
OBSERVATORY.
MAYBE
HE HURNT
NOTICED.

BUT...

A STORM'S
COMING?

WAKE
UP!

LIKE I
CARE.

WE GOT
KNOW
WHAT WE
KNOW.

SOME-
THING'S
WRONG.

WAM

EUGENE!

WAIT,
CATH-
ERINE!

WAM!

SHOULD BE
SENDING UP
WARNING
FIREWORKS!

THE
OBSERVATORY

IF IT
REALLY IS A
STORM.



THAT'S RIGHT!

REALLY?



NO WAY!

HE CAN
ONLY SEE
ME AS A
CAT!



TELL
EUGENE
REN!

HE'D NEVER
BELIEVE ME
IF I TOLD
HIM A
STORM WAS
COMING



YOU HAVE TO
GO YOURSELF,
CATHERINE.



BEEN PAST
THIS POINT.

I'VE
NEVER...











AND
I KNOW
YOU NEED
COURAGE.

I KNOW
WHY YOU'RE
SCARED,
EUGENE.



THIS IS THE
REASON
YOU'VE
BEEN UP
HERE FOR
TEN YEARS!

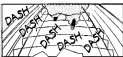
BUT
THIS IS
YOUR
JOB!

WAAAA









RUMBLE





was
stamping
through
the town.

For the first
time in sixteen
years, it was
like a cloud even
larger than
an elephant

rumble



And over
the course
of a day

The
storm
slowly
passed



THANK
YOU







WHAT?

SO THAT
GUY WAS
ALIVE.



I
THOUGHT
HE WAS
SOME
STORM
DEVIL.

HAI
FLAPPING
ALL OVER.

phew



EUGENE?
YOU SAVED
US LAST
NIGHT.

EUGENE
?!



THE
LETTER
WITH THE
ELEPHANT
ON IT.

IT
ARRIVED.

Instead of
a beautiful
elephant stamp,
the letter had a
clumsy drawing of
an elephant on it.



and had to
get out of
town as soon
as he could.

which is why even
after he was saved
from the storm by
a foreign ship, he
never went back
to that town.



At the
time,

Yuko had
borrowed a
lot of money



BUT I'M
SO SORRY,
EUGENE.

I KNOW
IT'S TOO
LATE TO
SAY THIS,



"I FOUND
OUT YOU'D
BLAMED
YOURSELF
FOR MY
DEATH"

"AND
SPENT TEN
YEARS LIVING
ALONE UP ON
A MOUNTAIN."



WHOOSH



IT'S
FINE..

"I'm so sorry.
I'm so sorry."
was all that
was written
after that,
again and
again.



IT'S
NOT YOUR
FAULT

NOW.

I'M

FINE



Witches are such complicated people.

SAY...
CATHERINE



rustle

WELL, I WON'T HAVE
GOOD FOR HIM.
THAT SURE.



WHAT?!

THEN I'LL
CALL YOU MY
SEVENTH
WITCH.

DO YOU
WANT TO
LIVE WITH
ME?

They have
that same
lonely smell
even when they
should be
happy.



HOW COULD
I REGRET?

THEN...

I only
came to
learn

that this
witch was
a seventh
generation
descendent
of the first
witch

a little bit
later—



Seven...

isn't
remains.

Wush

THEN I'LL
JUST CALL
YOU CATHERINE.

AND IF I
SAY NOT